Other seabirds

Wadden Sea

This study uses the definition of seabird as described in Avian Biology (1971). This book defines seabirds as: The group of birds that obtain their food from the sea while flying, wading, swimming, or diving (Avian Biology, 1971). This does not include species that occupy freshwater habitats while breeding, but feed in coastal waters at other times, such as cormorants (Avian Biology, 1971). As gulls are discussed separately in this study, they will not be included in this informative paper. Species that, for example, will be included are: Brent goose (*Branta bernicla*), Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), and Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*). Many seabirds are migratory and some are considered invasive or non-native.

History/ Population trends

Many seabird populations experience an increasing impact of pollution (Ducrotoy et al., 2000). The Royal Society of the Protection of Birds (R.S.P.B.) has been concerned about the effects of oil pollution on both seabirds and seabird populations (Dunnet, 1987). However, not only oil pollution is a threat to seabird populations. For example, fishing gear is causing problems for seabirds that use the fishing gear as nesting material (Bond et al., 2012). Incorporating fishing gear causes these birds, such as terns (*Sterna sp.*), to sometimes get entangled in the fishing gear (Bond et al., 2012). These birds often die of exhaustion or asphyxiation (Bond et al., 2012).

Wading birds are some of the oldest inhabitants of the Wadden Sea (Reise et al., 2010). Enormous flocks of wading birds come to the Wadden Sea to feed and thus make use of what can be found in this sea (Reise et al., 2010). These birds are known to be a popular attraction among birdwatchers (Reise et al., 2010).

Miscellaneous

- Many species of wading birds only inhabit the North Sea during specific times of the year (Cezilly, 1997). These species spent the other time of the year either migrating from area to area or brooding/ feeding in other parts of the world, often on the African continent (Cezilly, 1997).

Diet

- Herring (Avian Biology, 1971)
- Sprat (Avian Biology, 1971)
- Sandeel (Avian Biology, 1971)
- Small fish (Avian Biology, 1971)
- Crustaceans (Avian Biology, 1971)
- Other detritivores (Avian Biology, 1971)
- Annelida (Avian Biology, 1971)
- Starfish (Avian Biology, 1971)
- Mussels (Avian Biology, 1971)
- Oysters (Avian Biology, 1971)
- Other bivalves (Avian Biology, 1971)
- Seagrass (Avian Biology, 1971)

Sources

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